



Reference No. 6.27

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, MAY 1974 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1974, 559,600 working days were lost in Australia as a result of 356 industrial disputes involving 317,500 employees. This was the highest number of industrial disputes in any month since monthly figures became available in October 1969.
- In the five months January to May 1974 there were 1,243 industrial disputes, involving 1,013,500 employees and resulting in a loss of 4 million working days and \$75.1 million in wages.
- The construction industry lost 229,200 working days in May, due mainly to stoppages in all States by building workers in support of claims for uniform conditions of employment in the industry throughout Australia and for increased wages.
- Other major stoppages involved draughtsmen, technical officers, etc. in most States; metalliferous miners and shop assistants in New South Wales; hotel employees in Victoria; and motor vehicle factory employees in South Australia.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This bulletin contains statistics of industrial disputes for the month of May 1974 and some previous periods. More information about these disputes will appear later in the detailed quarterly mimeograph *Industrial Disputes* (Reference No. 6.6).

2. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC), described in the Bureau publication *Australian Standard Industrial Classification (Preliminary Edition)*, 1969, Vol. 1. Statistics on this basis for the years 1968 to 1972 are published in *Labour*

Report No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7) and the March quarter 1973 bulletin (Reference No. 6.6).

3. The statistics of industrial disputes refer only to disputes involving stoppages of work of ten man-days or more. Workers involved include workers directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Workers indirectly involved are employees thrown out of work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred but not themselves parties to the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages (e.g. those involving a large number of establishments) may be estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving a broad measure of the extent of stoppages of work (as defined).

4. Stoppages of work occurring at different times and at different establishments but due to the same cause may be regarded as one industrial dispute. However, an industrial dispute occurring in more than one State is counted as a separate dispute in each State. A dispute involving workers in more than one industry in a State or Territory is counted only once in the number of disputes — in the industry that has the largest number of workers involved; but workers involved, working days lost and estimated loss in wages are allocated to their respective industries. Disputes not settled at the end of a year are included as new disputes in the figures for the following year. The monthly statistics refer to all disputes operative in the month, including those disputes that commenced in previous months. In Table 1 details of the number of disputes and workers involved are shown separately for disputes beginning in the month and for all disputes. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components are due to rounding.

5. For statistics of industrial disputes for earlier periods see *Labour Report* No. 57, 1972 (Reference No. 6.7).

TABLE 1. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Workers involved ('000)		Working days lost (a) ('000)	Estimated loss in wages (a) (\$'000)
	Beginning in month	Total (a)	Beginning in month	Total (a)		
1969	..	2,014	..	1,285.2	1,958.0	22,985.7
1970	..	2,738	..	1,367.4	2,393.7	30,883.3
1971	..	2,404	..	1,326.5	3,068.6	45,241.3
1972	..	2,298	..	1,113.8	2,010.3	32,074.4
1973	..	2,538	..	803.0	2,634.7	45,206.5
1973 -						
May	212	223	100.4	113.6	304.3	5,026.5
June	165	181	48.1	81.9	363.7	6,148.5
July	196	207	111.4	139.6	225.0	3,962.1
August	216	239	56.0	83.3	218.6	3,714.1
September	252	273	59.5	63.1	215.9	3,639.0
October	289	313	66.2	79.1	245.2	4,397.3
November	241	274	87.9	101.6	257.9	4,884.3
December	122	138	24.6	29.8	49.8	897.1
1974 -						
January	192	192	41.0	41.0	53.6	897.8
February	261	281	407.8	414.4	418.1	7,704.7
March	274	323	144.0	492.1	2,011.3	36,646.2
April (b)	210	239	248.2	607.8	936.1	18,170.9
May (b)	306	356	172.6	317.5	559.6	11,672.3
1973 : January to May	..	1,057	..	349.2	1,058.6	17,563.9
1974 : January to May (b)	..	1,243	..	1,013.5	3,978.8	75,092.0

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Subject to revision.

TABLE 2. - INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : INDUSTRIES (a), AUSTRALIA
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (b)

Period	Manufacturing				Constru- ction	Transport and storage; communication		Other industries	All industries
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment (c)	Other		Steve- doring services	Other		
	Coal	Other							
1969	76.1	76.9	643.6	267.1	264.4	136.2	286.4	207.3	1,958.0
1970	178.4	76.5	625.9	440.9	618.3	148.3	156.7	148.8	2,393.7
1971	251.6	83.2	636.7	317.7	1,109.5	73.9	300.1	295.9	3,068.6
1972	60.8	62.0	620.2	393.7	407.8	39.2	205.2	221.3	2,010.3
1973	87.5	155.3	800.8	661.4	439.3	49.5	93.2	347.6	2,634.7
1973 -									
May	9.0	3.3	115.0	44.0	92.0	0.6	5.3	35.1	304.3
June	12.2	5.8	219.7	62.4	49.6	1.5	1.2	11.4	363.7
July	4.7	14.6	95.3	23.5	55.6	5.9	7.8	17.7	225.0
August	5.4	16.2	38.7	37.5	32.4	12.2	8.7	67.4	218.6
September	6.2	8.1	59.5	68.9	8.5	5.9	4.6	54.3	215.9
October	10.9	12.1	75.4	58.2	60.1	4.2	3.1	21.2	245.2
November	8.4	22.7	49.7	26.9	76.6	4.3	24.8	44.5	257.9
December	1.4	2.3	26.9	5.9	3.3	0.8	0.5	8.6	49.8
1974 -									
January	1.1	7.5	13.1	3.0	5.2	9.3	3.3	11.2	53.6
February	12.2	10.0	302.5	27.5	34.5	6.5	1.6	23.3	418.1
March	52.5	6.0	1,749.7	66.5	98.1	9.3	5.1	24.1	2,011.3
April (d)	28.1	5.4	356.4	23.5	422.0	39.5	4.3	56.9	936.1
May (d)	4.6	31.5	108.4	36.5	229.2	7.3	21.1	120.9	559.6
1973 : January to May	38.4	73.6	235.7	377.9	153.4	14.8	42.4	122.5	1,058.6
1974 : January to May (d)	98.5	60.4	2,530.1	157.0	789.1	71.9	35.4	236.5	3,978.8

(a) Australian Standard Industrial Classification - see paragraph 2, page 1. (b) Refers to all disputes operative in the period - see paragraph 4, page 1. (c) Includes ASIC sub-divisions 29, 31, 32, 33. (d) Subject to revision.

TABLE 3. — INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES
WORKING DAYS LOST ('000) (a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1969	743.8	717.2	238.6	129.0	101.4	9.9	1,958.0
1970	1,393.6	510.8	179.2	93.1	141.1	32.2	2,393.7
1971	1,887.5	689.6	271.4	111.2	69.4	20.6	3,068.6
1972	866.8	638.4	292.2	60.9	94.6	19.2	2,010.3
1973	1,098.1	780.5	320.2	130.6	117.3	140.1	2,634.7
1973 —							
January	32.8	11.2	4.1	2.6	7.9	19.1	82.1
February	87.0	86.6	16.7	14.7	7.7	33.5	248.4
March	110.0	47.4	18.8	15.2	10.2	28.5	231.7
April	42.9	92.8	18.2	5.7	11.7	9.5	192.0
May	125.6	94.2	56.2	7.9	7.2	12.4	304.3
June	158.5	91.1	75.6	3.0	8.7	18.8	363.7
July	90.8	102.0	17.1	4.2	9.2	1.6	225.0
August	113.0	33.7	42.8	7.1	15.7	2.5	218.6
September	91.2	83.2	25.1	6.8	4.3	0.2	215.9
October	110.3	87.3	14.9	15.3	12.9	1.8	245.2
November	125.2	44.6	27.4	23.3	21.0	8.5	257.9
December	10.8	6.5	3.4	24.7	0.8	3.6	49.8
1974 —							
January	30.9	7.5	6.4	1.3	5.9	0.2	53.6
February	253.4	125.7	13.2	16.1	5.0	1.1	418.1
March	1,063.1	728.0	45.8	99.1	8.6	54.1	2,011.3
April (c)	351.4	454.8	67.2	37.2	16.8	5.2	936.1
May (c)	252.0	189.1	44.3	52.2	11.4	4.4	559.6
1973 : January to May	398.4	332.1	113.9	46.1	44.9	103.1	1,058.6
1974 : January to May (c)	1,950.8	1,505.1	176.9	205.9	47.8	65.0	3,978.8

(a) Refers to all disputes operative in the period — see paragraph 4, page 1. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Subject to revision.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

